Z is a single bond or a C_1-C_4 hydrocarbon chain containing no more than 1 double or triple bond, optionally substituted with one or more substituents independently selected from the group consisting of C_1-C_4 alkyl;

A is an aromatic ring selected from the group consisting of optionally substituted arylene and optionally substituted heteroarylene, wherein A is not benzimidazole and when Z is a single bond then A is not selected from the group consisting of phenylene and six-membered heteroarylene containing 3 or less than 3 nitrogens;

B is an aromatic ring selected from the group consisting of optionally substituted aryl, and heteroaryl and wherein A and B can not both be phenylene and wherein when Z is a single bond then B is not a bicyclic aryl or bicyclic heteroaryl;

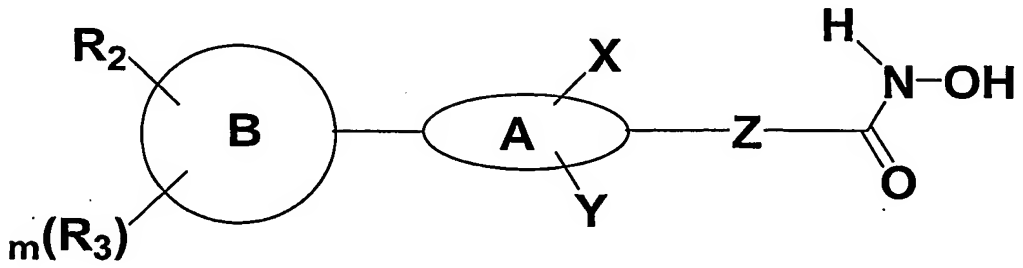
wherein A and B are connected via a carbon-carbon bond;

R_2 is selected from the group consisting of halogen, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, haloalkyl, haloalkenyl, heteroalkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl, heterocycloalkyl, heterocycloalkenyl, aryl, heteroaryl, cycloalkylalkyl, heterocycloalkylalkyl, arylalkyl, heteroarylalkyl, arylalkenyl, cycloalkylheteroalkyl, heterocycloalkylheteroalkyl, heteroarylheteroalkyl, arylheteroalkyl, hydroxy, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxy, alkoxyalkyl, alkoxyaryl, alkenyloxy, alkynyloxy, cycloalkylkoxy, heterocycloalkyloxy, aryloxy, heteroaryloxy, arylalkyloxy, amino, alkylamino, aminoalkyl, acylamino, arylamino, phenoxy, benzyloxy, COOH, $COOR_4$, SH, $CONHR_4$, NHR_4, $-(CH_2)_nNHCOR_4$, $NHCOR_4$, $NHCOOR_4$ $NHCONHR_4$, $C(=NOH)R_4$, $NHSOR_4$ $NHSO_2R_4$, $-(CH_2)_n-NR_6R_7$, alkoxycarbonyl, alkylaminocarbonyl, sulfonyl, alkylsulfonyl, alkylsulfinyl, arylsulfonyl, arylsulfinyl, aminosulfonyl, aminosulfinyl, SR_4 and acyl each of which may optionally be substituted, provided that R_2 does not contain the moiety NHCONHCO or $NHCONHSO_2$;

R_3 is selected from the group consisting of H, halogen, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, haloalkyl, haloalkenyl, heteroalkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl, heterocycloalkyl, heterocycloalkenyl, aryl, heteroaryl, cycloalkylalkyl, heterocycloalkylalkyl, arylalkyl, heteroarylalkyl, arylalkenyl, cycloalkylheteroalkyl, heterocycloalkylheteroalkyl, heteroarylheteroalkyl, arylheteroalkyl, hydroxy, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxy, alkoxyalkyl, alkoxyaryl, alkenyloxy, alkynyloxy, cycloalkylkoxy, heterocycloalkyloxy, aryloxy, heteroaryloxy, arylalkyloxy, amino, alkylamino, aminoalkyl, acylamino, arylamino, phenoxy, benzyloxy, COOH, $COOR_4$, SH, $CONHR_4$, NHR_4, $-(CH_2)_nNHCOR_4$, $NHCOR_4$,

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or prodrug thereof, wherein when A is 2,5-oxazolene and Z is a single bond, $R_2 = R_3 = H$, then B is not a phenyl, 4-Cl-phenyl, 4-CH_3-O-phenyl or 4-NO_2-phenyl.

A useful group of compounds within the scope of Formula (I) are those compounds of Formula (Ia)



Formula (Ia)

wherein

Z is a single bond or a C_1-C_4 hydrocarbon chain which may contain 0 to 1 double or triple bonds, unsubstituted or substituted with one or more substituents independently selected from the group consisting of C_1-C_4 alkyl;

A is an aromatic ring selected from the group consisting of optionally substituted arylene and optionally substituted heteroarylene, wherein A is not benzimidazole and when Z is a single bond then A is not selected from the group consisting of phenylene and six-membered heteroarylene containing 3 or less than 3 nitrogens;

B is an aromatic ring selected from the group consisting of aryl and heteroaryl and heteroarylene and wherein A and B can not both be phenylene and wherein when Z is a single bond then B is not a bicyclic aryl or bicyclic heteroaryl;

wherein A and B are connected via a carbon-carbon bond;

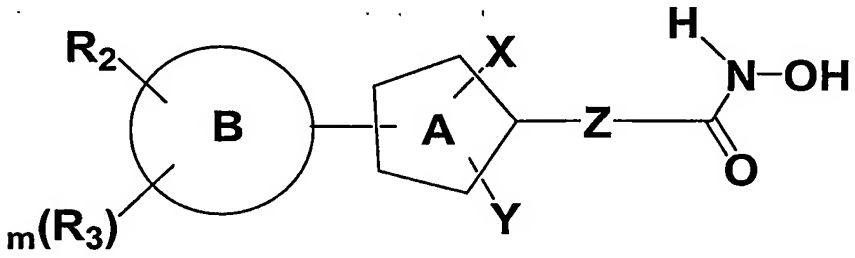
R_2 is selected from C_1-C_{10} alkyl, alkenyl, heteroalkyl, haloalkyl, alkynyl, aryl, cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, heteroaryl, C_4-C_9 heterocycloalkylalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl (e.g., cyclopropylmethyl), arylalkyl (e.g. benzyl), heteroarylalkyl (e.g. pyridylmethyl), hydroxyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxy, amino, alkylamino, aminoalkyl, acylamino, phenoxy, alkoxyalkyl, benzyloxy, alkylsulfonyl, arylsulfonyl, aminosulfonyl, -C(O)OR_4, -C(O)OH, -SH, -CONHR_4,

R_8 and R_9 are the same or different and independently selected from the group consisting of H, C_1-C_6 alkyl, C_4-C_9 cycloalkyl, C_4-C_9 heterocycloalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, arylalkyl, and heteroarylalkyl;

m is an integer from 0 to 4;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or prodrug thereof, wherein when A is 2,5-oxazolene and Z is a single bond, R_2 = R_3 = H, then B is not a phenyl, 4-Cl-phenyl, 4-CH_3-O-phenyl or 4-NO_2-phenyl.

In further embodiments there are disclosed hydroxamate compounds of Formula (Ib):



Formula (Ib)

wherein

Z is a single bond or a C_1-C_4 hydrocarbon chain which may contain 0 to 1 double bond or triple bond, unsubstituted or substituted with one or more substituents independently selected from the group consisting of C_1-C_4 alkyl;

A is an optionally substituted five-membered heteroarylene;

B is an aromatic ring which is selected from the group consisting of aryl, and heteroaryl; wherein when Z is a single bond then B is not a bicyclic aryl or bicyclic heteroaryl;

wherein A and B are connected via a carbon-carbon bond;

R_2 is selected from the group consisting of halogen, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, haloalkyl, haloalkenyl, heteroalkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl, heterocycloalkyl, heterocycloalkenyl, aryl, heteroaryl, cycloalkylalkyl, heterocycloalkylalkyl, arylalkyl, heteroarylalkyl, arylalkenyl, cycloalkylheteroalkyl, heterocycloalkylheteroalkyl, heteroarylheteroalkyl, arylheteroalkyl, hydroxy, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxy, alkoxyalkyl,

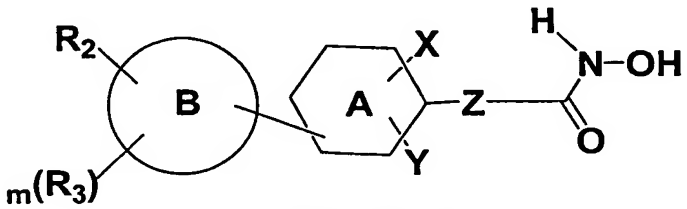
n is an integer from 0 to 6;

m is an integer from 0 to 4;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or prodrug thereof wherein when A is 2,5-oxazolene and Z is a single bond, R_2 = R_3 = H, then B is not a phenyl, 4-Cl-phenyl, 4-CH_3-O-phenyl or 4-NO_2-phenyl.

In a particularly preferred embodiment of the compounds of Formula (Ib) the B moiety is attached to the 3rd or 4th position relative to Z of ring A.

In yet a further embodiment of the compounds of Formula (I) there are disclosed compounds of the Formula (Ic) :



Formula (Ic)

wherein

Z is a single bond or a C_1-C_4 hydrocarbon chain which may contain 0 to 1 double bond or triple bond, unsubstituted or substituted with one or more substituents independently selected from the group consisting of C_1-C_4 alkyl;

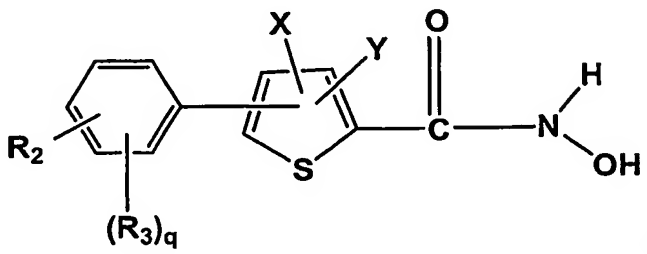
A is a six-membered aromatic ring which is selected from the group consisting of optionally substituted arylene or optionally substituted heteroarylene and when Z is a single bond then A is not selected from the group consisting of phenylene and six-membered heteroarylene containing 3 or less than 3 nitrogens;

B is an aromatic ring and is attached to the 3rd or 4th position relative to Z of ring A selected from the group consisting of aryl, and heteroaryl and wherein A and B can not both be phenylene;

wherein A and B are connected via a carbon-carbon bond;

p is preferably 0 or 1, most preferably 0.

In another preferred embodiment the invention provides compounds of Formula (Ig):



Formula (Ig)

wherein q is an integer from 0 to 4, and X, Y, R_2 and R_3 are as described for Formula (I).

R_2 is preferably selected from the group consisting of:

$-NH_2$,

$-(CH_2)_nNHCOR_4$,

$-NHSO_2R_4$,

$-NR_4$,

$-(CH_2)_nNR_6R_7$.

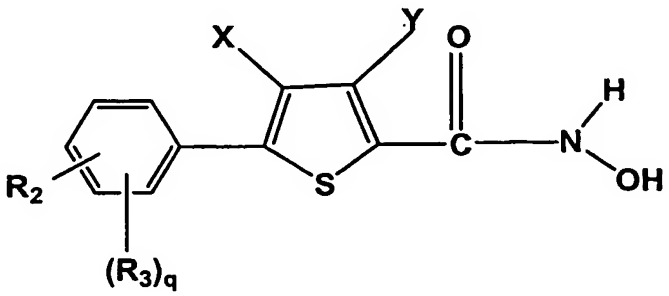
- arylalkyl,
- heteroarylalkyl,

each of which may be optionally substituted

wherein n is an integer from 0 to 6 and R_4, R_6 and R_7 are as described for Formula (I), or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or prodrug thereof.

q is preferably 0 or 1, most preferably 0.

In another preferred embodiment the invention provides compounds of Formula (Ih):



Formula (Ih)

wherein q is an integer from 0 to 4, and X, Y, R_2 and R_3 are as described for Formula (I).

R_2 is preferably selected from the group consisting of:

$-NH_2$,

$-(CH_2)_nNHCOR_4$,

$-NHSO_2R_4$,

$-NR_4$,

$-(CH_2)_nNR_6R_7$.

- arylalkyl,

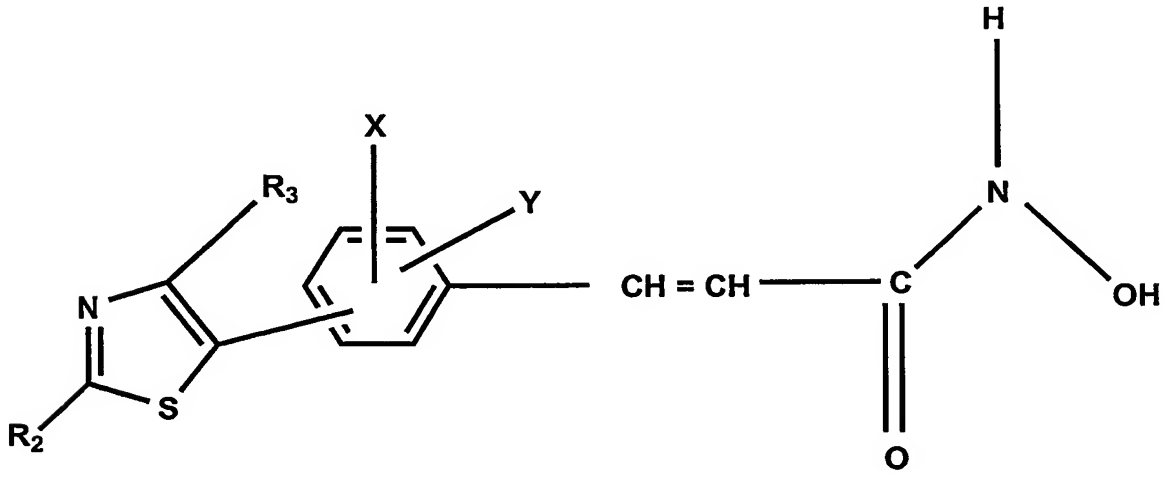
- heteroarylalkyl,

each of which may be optionally substituted

wherein n is an integer from 0 to 6 and R_4, R_6 and R_7 are as described for Formula (I), or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or prodrug thereof.

q is preferably 0 or 1, most preferably 0.

In another preferred embodiment the invention provides a compound of Formula (Ii):



Formula (Ii)

wherein X, Y, R_2 and R_3 are as described for Formula (I)

. R_2 is preferably selected from the group consisting of:

$-NH_2$,

$-(CH_2)_nNHCOR_4$,

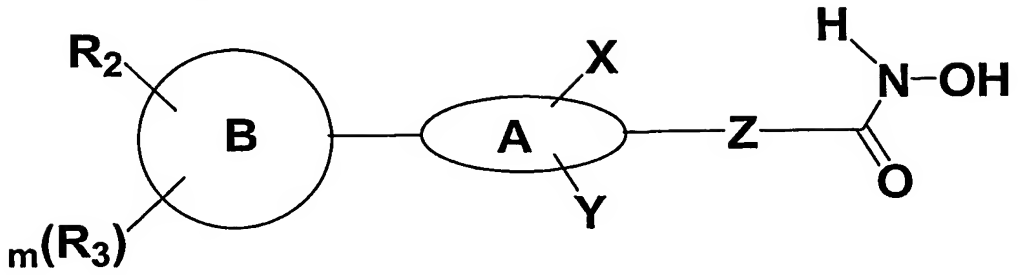
$-NHSO_2R_4$,

$-NR_4$,

$-(CH_2)_nNR_6R_7$.

What is claimed is:

1. A compound of the Formula (I)



Formula (I)

wherein

Z is a single bond or a C_1-C_4 hydrocarbon chain containing no more than 1 double or triple bond, optionally substituted with one or more substituents independently selected from the group consisting of C_1-C_4 alkyl;

A is an aromatic ring selected from the group consisting of optionally substituted arylene and optionally substituted heteroarylene, wherein A is not benzimidazole and when Z is a single bond then A is not selected from the group consisting of phenylene and six-membered heteroarylene containing 3 or less than 3 nitrogens;

B is an aromatic ring selected from the group consisting of aryl, and heteroaryl and wherein A and B can not both be phenylene and wherein when Z is a single bond then B is not a bicyclic aryl or bicyclic heteroaryl;

wherein A and B are connected via a carbon-carbon bond;

R_2 is selected from the group consisting of halogen, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, haloalkyl, haloalkenyl, heteroalkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl, heterocycloalkyl, heterocycloalkenyl, aryl, heteroaryl, cycloalkylalkyl, heterocycloalkylalkyl, arylalkyl, heteroarylalkyl, arylalkenyl, cycloalkylheteroalkyl, heterocycloalkylheteroalkyl, heteroarylheteroalkyl, arylheteroalkyl, hydroxy, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxy, alkoxyalkyl, alkoxyaryl, alkenyloxy, alkynyloxy, cycloalkylkoxy, heterocycloalkyloxy, aryloxy, heteroaryloxy, arylalkyloxy, amino, alkylamino, aminoalkyl, acylamino, arylamino, phenoxy, benzyloxy, COOH, $COOR_4$, SH, $CONHR_4$, NHR_4, $-(CH_2)_nNHCOR_4$, $NHCOR_4$, $NHCOOR_4$ $NHCONHR_4$, $C(=NOH)R_4$, $NHSOR_4$ $NHSO_2R_4$, $-(CH_2)_n-NR_6R_7$, alkoxycarbonyl,

cycloalkylalkyl, heterocycloalkylalkyl, arylalkyl, heteroarylalkyl and acyl; each of which may be optionally substituted;

each R_8 and R_9 is independently selected from the group consisting of H, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, haloalkyl, heteroalkyl, cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, cycloalkylalkyl, heterocycloalkylalkyl, arylalkyl, heteroarylalkyl and acyl; each of which may be optionally substituted;

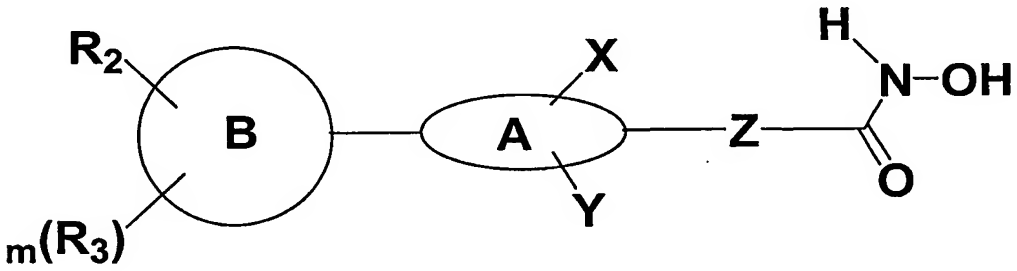
n is an integer from 0 to 6,

m is an integer from 0 to 4;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or prodrug thereof,

wherein when A is 2,5-oxazolene and Z is a single bond, $R_2 = R_3 = H$, then B is not a phenyl, 4-Cl-phenyl, 4-CH_3-O-phenyl or 4-NO_2-phenyl.

2. A compound according to claim 1 having the Formula (Ia)



Formula (Ia)

wherein

Z is a single bond or a C_1-C_4 hydrocarbon chain which may contain 0 to 1 double or triple bonds, unsubstituted or substituted with one or more substituents independently selected from the group consisting of C_1-C_4 alkyl;

A is an aromatic ring selected from the group consisting of optionally substituted arylene and optionally substituted heteroarylene, wherein A is not benzimidazole and when Z is a single bond then A is not selected from the group consisting of phenylene and six-membered heteroarylene containing 3 or less than 3 nitrogens;

B is an aromatic ring selected from the group consisting of aryl, and heteroaryl

and wherein A and B can not both be phenylene and wherein when Z is a single bond then B is not a bicyclic aryl or bicyclic heteroaryl;

wherein A and B are connected via a carbon-carbon bond;

R_2 is selected from C_1-C_{10} alkyl, alkenyl, heteroalkyl, haloalkyl, alkynyl, aryl, cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, heteroaryl, C_4-C_9 heterocycloalkylalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl (e.g., cyclopropylmethyl), arylalkyl (e.g. benzyl), heteroarylalkyl (e.g. pyridylmethyl), hydroxyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxy, amino, alkylamino, aminoalkyl, acylamino, phenoxy, alkoxyalkyl, benzyloxy, alkylsulfonyl, arylsulfonyl, aminosulfonyl, $-C(O)OR_4$, -C(O)OH, -SH, $-CONHR_4$, $-NHCONHR_4$, $C(=NOH)R_4$, $-C(O)C(O)OR_4$, $C(O)CONHR_4$, $CON(R_5)OR_4$, $COCON(R_4)OR_4$, $NHCOR_4$, and acyl; each of the above is unsubstituted or optionally substituted with one or more substituents independently selected from the group consisting of: halogen; =O; =S; -CN; and $-NO_2$; and alkyl, alkenyl, heteroalkyl, haloalkyl, alkynyl, aryl, cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, heteroaryl, hydroxyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxy, alkylamino, aminoalkyl, acylamino, phenoxy, alkoxyalkyl, benzyloxy, alkylsulfonyl, arylsulfonyl, aminosulfonyl, $-C(O)OR_5$, -C(O)OH, -SH, $-C(O)C(O)OR_5$, $C(O)CONHR_5$, $CON(R_5)OR_5$, $COCON(R_5)OR_5$, $NHCOR_5$, and acyl; wherein R_2 does not contain the moiety NHCONHCO or $NHCONHSO_2$;

R_3 is selected from H, C_1-C_{10} alkyl, alkenyl, heteroalkyl, haloalkyl, alkynyl, aryl, cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, heteroaryl, C_4-C_9 heterocycloalkylalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl (e.g., cyclopropylmethyl), arylalkyl (e.g. benzyl), heteroarylalkyl (e.g. pyridylmethyl), hydroxyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxy, amino, alkylamino, aminoalkyl, acylamino, phenoxy, alkoxyalkyl, benzyloxy, alkylsulfonyl, arylsulfonyl, aminosulfonyl, $-C(O)OR_4$, -C(O)OH, -SH, $-CONHR_4$, $-NHCONHR_4$, $C(=NOH)R_4$, $-C(O)C(O)OR_4$, $C(O)CONHR_4$, $CON(R_5)OR_4$, $COCON(R_4)OR_4$, $NHCOR_4$, and acyl; each of the above is unsubstituted or optionally substituted with one or more substituents independently selected from the group consisting of: halogen; =O; =S; -CN; and $-NO_2$; and alkyl, alkenyl, heteroalkyl, haloalkyl, alkynyl, aryl, cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, heteroaryl, hydroxyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxy, alkylamino, aminoalkyl, acylamino, phenoxy, alkoxyalkyl, benzyloxy, alkylsulfonyl, arylsulfonyl, aminosulfonyl, $-C(O)OR_5$, -C(O)OH, -SH, $-C(O)C(O)OR_5$, $C(O)CONHR_5$, $CON(R_5)OR_5$, $COCON(R_5)OR_5$, $NHCOR_5$, and acyl; wherein R_3 does not contain the moiety NHCONHCO or $NHCONHSO_2$;

or R_2 and R_3 together with portion of ring B may form a non-aromatic ring fused to B;